

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. With respect to claim 19, Colas et al. teach a method of adhering a silicone gel to a substrate, comprising the steps of (abstract):

casting a layer of a silicone gel on a sheet (paragraph 0028);

applying the silicone gel to a carrier (paragraph 0028);

removing the sheet from the silicone gel (paragraph 0028); and

applying the silicone gel to a substrate to which the silicone gel is adhered to (abstract; paragraph 0015).

Colas et al. teach applying a silicone gel to a carrier sheet (i.e. first substrate), via a casting (i.e. transfer) method, where an additional adhesive or adhesion promoter (i.e. primer) may be used or even included in the gel, to bond the gel and the carrier sheet (paragraph 0025).

However, the prior art does not specifically teach treating the surface of a silicone gel with a specific primer selected from titanate materials, zirconate materials, Si-H containing siloxanes and platinum materials.

3. With respect to claim 20, Colas et al. teach the following steps of adhering a silicone gel to a substrate:

casting a layer of a silicone gel on a sheet (paragraphs 0028);

applying the silicone gel on the sheet to a carrier (paragraph 0038);

removing the sheet from the silicone gel (paragraph 0028); and

applying the silicone gel to a substrate to which the silicone gel is adhered to (abstract; paragraph 0015);

However, the prior art does not specifically teach treating a surface of a substrate with a primer selected from titanate materials, zirconate materials, Si--H containing siloxanes and platinum materials.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SONYA MAZUMDAR whose telephone number is (571)272-6019. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Philip Tucker can be reached on (571) 272-1095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sonya Mazumdar/
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